REMARKS

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below.

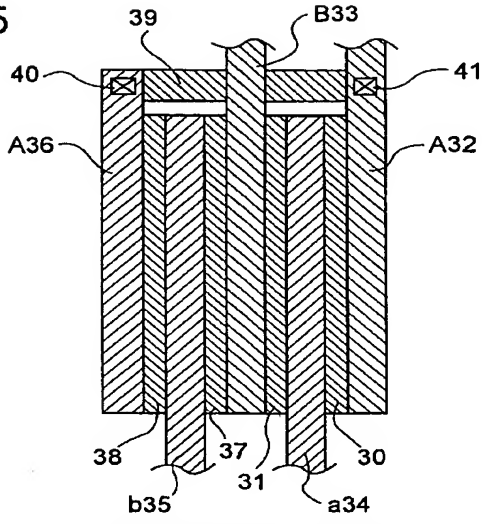
Claims 2-5, 8, 31 and 32 are pending in the application. Claims 5 and 8 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

Claims 2, 4, 31 and 32 were rejected as unpatentable over AOKI et al. 6,995,516 or WIRTH et al. (5,270,657) in view of Applicant's Disclose Prior Art. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 31 and 32 recite at least four separate power supply lines arranged side-by-side. At least two transistors are in the gap between the power supply lines.

By way of example, Figure 5 of the present application, reproduced below, shows power supply lines A32, a34, B33 and b35. Transistors 30 and 31 are in the gap between power supply lines.

FIG. 5

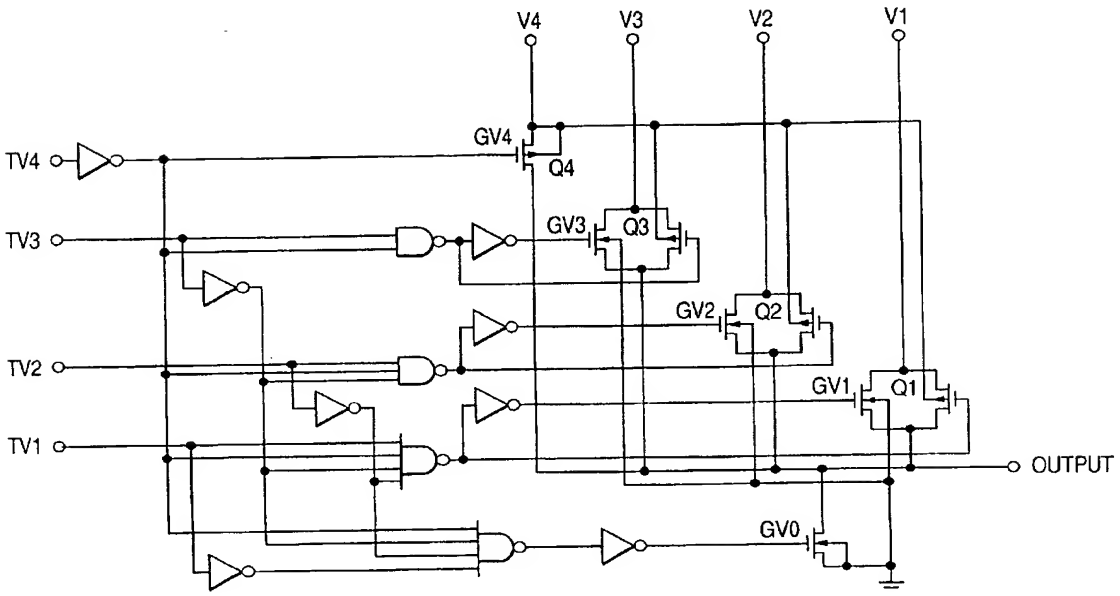


LAYOUT ACCORDION TO THIRD ENBODIMENT

As set forth on page 45, lines 20-26, by having the transistors in the gaps between power supply lines, the overall width of the circuit can be reduced.

Figures 6 and 12 of AOKI and Figure 13 of WIRTH only show the circuit diagrams. Figure 6 of AOKI is reproduced below as a representative figure. As seen in Figure 6, the circuit diagram shows the connection between the transistors and the power supply lines, but do not show the layout of the transistors and the power supply lines.

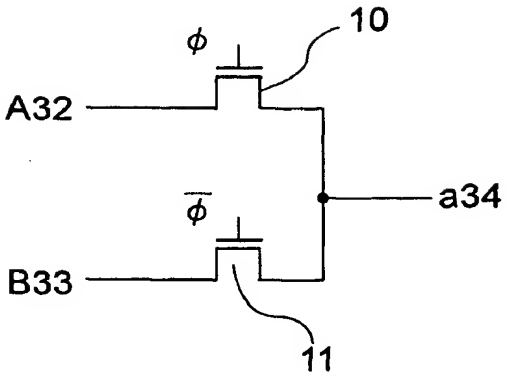
FIG. 6



Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to arrange the transistors and power supply lines as recited in the present invention based on the disclosure of AOKI or WIRTH. Neither AOKI nor WIRTH provide any insight for reducing the overall width of the circuit by having the transistors in the gap between power supply lines in the recited arrangement.

The shortcomings of AOKI and WIRTH are not overcome by applicant's disclosed prior art. Similar to AOKI, applicant's disclosed prior art Figure 2, reproduced below, shows a circuit diagram having transistors 10, 11 formed on opposite sides of power supply line a34.

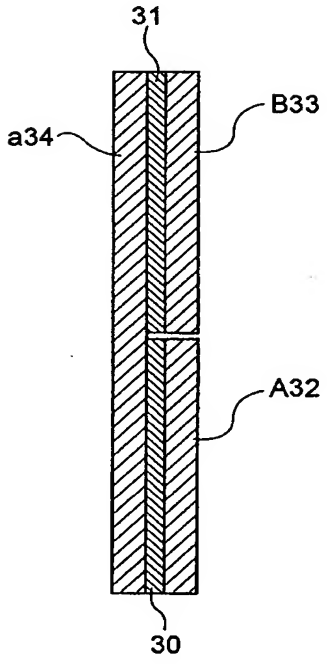
FIG. 2



WIRING SWITCH CIRCUIT

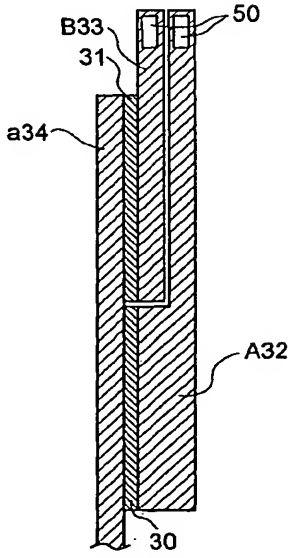
However, as seen in Figures 32 and 33, reproduced below, the circuit configuration of Figure 2 does not necessarily entail that the layout of the transistors 10, 11 are in the gaps between first and second power supply lines and second and third power supply lines as required to meet the limitations of claims 31 and 32.

FIG. 32 PRIOR ART



EXAMPLE OF ORDINARY LAYOUT

FIG. 33
PRIOR ART



EXAMPLE OF ORDINARY LAYOUT

As nothing in the prior art suggests the recited layout, such layout would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Moreover, neither the transistors of AOKI nor the transistors of WIRTH are provided to switch the power supply lines. Rather, as disclosed on column 24, lines 60-62 of AOKI, transistors Q1-Q4 output potentials V1 to V4 to an output terminal Out by turning on. Similarly, column 13, lines 36-46 of WIRTH discloses transistors biased ON or OFF to produce different states. The above noted feature is also absent from the disclosed prior art.

Since such feature is missing from each of the references, is absent from the combination, such feature would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Claim 3 was rejected over AOKI et al. or WIRTH et al. in view of Applicant's disclosed prior art and further in view of FUJII et al. 6,707,139. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

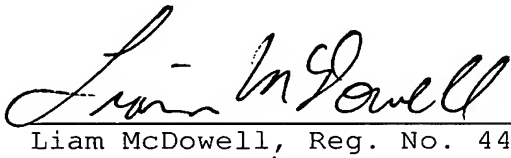
The FUJII reference is only cited for the disclosure of a mutual connection line for connecting power lines having equal potentials. FUJII does not disclose what is recited in claim 31. As set forth above, AOKI or WIRTH in view of Applicant's disclosed prior art does not disclose what is recited in claim 31. Since claim 3 depends from claim 31 and further defines the invention, claim 3 is believed patentable at least for depending from allowable independent claim.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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